

This genus is at once distinguished from all the other *Gorgonia* that I have seen, by its thin, smooth, skin-like bark studded with sandy more or less raised wart-like cells, which on the thick stem are numerous all round the surface, scarcely raised, while on the thinner branchlets they are further apart, and form prominent wart-like cells.

The axis is olive-brown, formed of concentric laminæ, which often show a space between them at the fractures. When the bark is soaked in potash it is rather thick and flesh-like, and the cells are surrounded with a single series of rather regularly disposed, nearly equal-sized, angular, sand-like, transparent particles, forming a sheath to the polype.

The tentacle of the polypes, when examined in this state, are thick, conical, and simple, without any indication of the pinnate tubercles which are to be seen in the living *Gorgonia*, according to the observations of most naturalists.

I only know of a single species of the genus, which was purchased of a dealer in natural history at Liverpool, without any habitat.

SARCOGORGIA PHIDIPPUS. (Pl. VIII.)

2. SUBERGORGIA.

Coral furcately branched, rather compressed, with a continued sunken groove up the middle of each side. Cell rather prominent, convex, in two or three rather irregular series up each edge. Axis pale brown, wart-like, formed of rather loosely concentric fibrous laminæ, containing a large quantity of calcareous matter, and effervescing with muriatic acid. The bark when dry is rather thin, smooth, hard and granular within.

SUBERGORGIA SUBEROSA.

Subergorgia suberosa, Esper. t. 49.

This genus, and the genera *Junceella*, *Ctenocella*, and *Gorgonella* of Valenciennes, should be arranged with *Corallium* under the family *Coralliidæ*, characterized by having a calcareous axis.

6. DESCRIPTION OF A RABBIT SAID TO BE FOUND ON THE HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINS. BY A. D. BARTLETT.

(Mammalia, Pl. LVI.)

This animal is smaller than the domestic Rabbit, being shorter and more compact; its body is pure white, the nose, ears, legs and tail are of a dark brownish-black, the eyes dark red.

The fur is much shorter and more nearly equal in length than in the common Rabbit. The young are perfectly white all over until they are five or six weeks old, at which time the nose and tail begin

to get dark-coloured ; the feet soon afterwards get dark, and lastly the ears turn black.

In their movements they appear quicker than other rabbits, and they jump a considerable distance ; some in my possession I have seen leap upon objects 3 feet from the ground. The first specimens of these animals that came under my notice were obtained by Mr. Baker, who informed me that they came from the Himalayas. I have since seen a large number of them, and in no instance have I observed any variation in the colour or markings. They are prolific breeders, and appear extremely hardy.

Having some recollection of hearing a furrier once speak of the skins of the Polish Rabbit, I took an opportunity a few days since to examine a large lot of these skins at a fur warehouse, when I found that they were beyond all doubt from the animal now under notice. Upon inquiry I was told that these skins are imported into this country in large numbers, and extensively used as a substitute for ermine, which fur they much resemble. I find in Mulsant, 'Cours Elémentaire d'Histoire Naturelle,' the following :—"The fur of the White Rabbit, even that of the Polish Rabbit, is easily distinguished from that of the ermine, by its less cylindrical hairs, which are considerably longer than the down." I am also informed that they are bought at the great sale of furs that takes place annually at Leipsic ; to this great fair skins are brought from all parts of the world, and I think it highly probable that these skins are imported from the mountainous parts of Asia.

I have not at present examined the skull of this animal, but should I find sufficient difference upon comparing it with the skulls of the other known species, I shall then propose for it the name of *Lepus nigripes*, or Black-footed Rabbit.

July 14, 1857.

Dr. Gray, F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

Mr. Gould having returned from a visit to the United States, whither he had proceeded for the purpose of studying the habits and manners of the species of *Trochilus* frequenting that portion of the American continent, detailed some of the results of his observations.

Having arrived just prior to the period of the bird's migration from Mexico to the north, and having had ample opportunities for observing it in a state of nature, he noticed that its actions were very peculiar, and quite different from those of all other birds : the flight is performed with a motion of the wings so rapid as to be almost imperceptible ; indeed the muscular power of this little creature ap-